



FLORIDA • SOUTH CAROLINA
GOVERNORS



April 29, 2003

The Honorable Jim DeMint
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeMint:

We write to support your amendment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (HR 1350), which would provide important education choices to parents of special needs children.

As Congress begins the important debate of how to fix our nation's special education system, it should consider the successes and advancements that many states have made in providing an equitable education to children with disabilities. There can be no better model for innovation and success than Florida's McKay Scholarship Program. By offering parents a wider range of options when determining the best and most appropriate approach to their child's education, we not only empower parents but we provide accountability to those parents and their children.

Your amendment would support the research and development of this type of program—it offers an invaluable flexibility and vision to states during a time when many Governors and State Legislatures are facing budget shortfalls.

We believe that excellence in education must be our highest priority. Therefore, we urge the U.S. House of Representatives to support your common sense amendment.

Sincerely,


Jeb Bush
State of Florida


Mark Sanford
State of South Carolina